

REMARKS

Initially, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner finds that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 31, 2002 does not comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, as well as MPEP Section 609 because of a failure to provide the publication date for certain publications. In view of this finding, enclosed is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, which re-submits these same three prior art references and includes what is believed to be accurate publication dates. Accordingly, consideration and acknowledgment of these three prior art references are respectfully requested.

With regard to the substantive rejections of the claims, Claims 1, 6, 13 and 20 have been rejected under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over the patent to Takiguchi et al. (US 4,481,507). Claims 35, 43 and 47 were rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by the Takiguchi et al. patent. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 35-40 and 51-53 are rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Conrad et al. (US 5,603,462). Claims 35 and 44 stand rejected under Section 102(e) as anticipated by the patent to Hedman et al. (US 6,445,970). Claims 35 and 45 are rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by the patent to Willenbacher et al. (US 5,237,944). Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 11, 14-19, 41, 42, 46 and 48-50 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 21-34 and 54-68 were withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species.

The non-elected Claims 21-34 and 54-68 are canceled. The subject matter found in allowable dependent Claim 2 has been substantially incorporated into Claim 1. That is, the determining recited in Claim 1 is limited to providing a first stitch angle and a first stitch length and calculating a feed length using those two parameters. This combination is not found in the prior art of record. The subject matter of allowable dependent Claim 41 has been included into independent Claim 35. Original dependent Claims 2, 36, 37 and 41 have also been canceled. Dependent Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 42, 46, 48 and 50 have been rewritten as independent claims. Since these newly recited independent claims include subject matter found allowable, these claims shall also now be allowed. The remaining dependent Claims 5-6, 9-10, 12-13, 15, 17-20, 38-40, 43-45, 47, 49 and 51-53 depend from one of these allowable independent claims. Consequently, these claims should be allowed as well.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with findings made by the Examiner based on the contents of the prior art references relied upon by him, in order to expedite the allowance of the patent application, Applicants have canceled claims and amended claims based on the Examiner's findings regarding allowable subject matter. Accordingly, all pending Claims 1, 3-20, 35, 38-40, and 42-53 should be held allowable.


Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$344.00 to cover the fee for the additional independent claims. Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-1970 for any amount that might be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Response, or debit the same account for any excess amount paid.

A sincere effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance. Early notice of such allowance is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By:

  
David F. Zinger

Registration No. 29,127

1560 Broadway, Suite 1200

Denver, CO 80202-5141

(303) 863-9700

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